

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Kingman Field Office

NEPA No.: C010-2014-0001-CX

Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Bluebird Mine Closures

Applicant: BLM/BCI (Contractor)

Location of Proposed Action: T. 29 N., R. 18 W., secs. 18 and 19, Gila & Salt River Meridian, north of Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona

Description of Proposed Action: Bat Conservation International (BCI) will install bat grates with gates on 2 abandoned mine adits on public lands in Mohave County, Arizona. Closing these dangerous abandoned mine workings will prevent accidental injury and the contamination of soil and groundwater by dumping of hazardous materials. Arizona Game and Fish Department and BCI biologists have surveyed each adit for wildlife habitat and provided the recommendation for closure based on the results. Mining claimants with claims in the area have been notified of this work. All mine features are adjacent to existing roads; therefore no new roads to access the features will be necessary.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS

Decisions and page nos.: “Hazardous Materials Management

The objective is to reduce hazards to the public and natural resources on public lands from toxic materials.”

Date plan approved/amended: March 1995

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (*43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2*).

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

A. The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 Appendix 4, J (8) – Installation of minor devices to protect human life, (e.g., grates across mines), and, Appendix 4, J (10) -- Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved;

And

B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with **43 CFR 46.215**, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed in Part IV, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included in the appropriate block.

Part IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION

PREPARERS:

DATE:

/s/ Rebecca L. Peck	10/28/2013
/s/ Timothy Watkins	11/04/2013

/s/ Ramone B. McCoy
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

11/04/2013
DATE

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes	No X	Rationale: Closing the abandoned mine adits will have a positive effect on public health & safety. Accidental injury or death due to entry into the openings will be eliminated. Contamination of soil and groundwater by the dumping of hazardous materials into abandoned mine adits will be prevented. Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u>
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(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action will not have significant impacts on any of the listed. Cultural clearances have been completed for the sites and no historic features would be impacted by the closing. The area is previously disturbed. Migratory birds would not be affected as no habitat occurs at the mine adit. The effect on wildlife, particularly bats would be positive. Grates would allow for bats to fly in and out of the adit and prevent human disturbance to the roost. Smaller animals, such as packrats and snakes will also be able to pass through the grate. Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u>
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(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].

Yes	No X	Rationale: Mining claimants have been notified of the proposed closures. The proposed action does not have significant effects on any other activities. Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u>
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(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action will not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The approval of this proposed action will not set the precedent for other actions. All other closures will be evaluated individually. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: This action doesn't have cumulatively significant actions in consideration of other actions in the vicinity. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: There is none of the listed in the area. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>
(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: T&E species and Critical habitat would be unaffected. There is no critical habitat present in the project area. The area is within the condor 10 J Experimental Range however this project would have no affect to condors and condors have not been known to use this area for roosting or foraging. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>

(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: No laws or requirements would be violated. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The action would have no impact on low income or minority populations. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>
(k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: There are no known sacred sites in the project areas. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>
(l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: BCI staff will be using designated routes, and cross-country travel will not be necessary; therefore, this action will not contribute to the spread of noxious weeds or non-native species. <div style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>MT</u></div>

PART V. –COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record, and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS:

/s/ Ruben A. Sanchez
Field Manager

Date: 11/05/2013

APPROVING OFFICIAL: _____ DATE: _____

TITLE: _____

Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.